

STAT 248: Time Series

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Didn't attend.

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Last time:

- Want to model $y_i \in \mathbb{R}^K$ for $i \in \mathbb{N}$
- Introduced Vector autoregressive model (VAR)

VAR(p)

$$\mathbf{y}_t = \boldsymbol{\nu} + \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}_{t-1} + \mathbf{A}_2\mathbf{y}_{t-2} + \cdots + \mathbf{A}_p\mathbf{y}_{t-p} + \underbrace{\mathbf{z}_t}_{\text{white noise}} \quad (1)$$

AR(p)

$$y_t = \nu + \alpha_1 y_{t-1} + \alpha_2 y_{t-2} + \cdots + \alpha_p y_{t-p} + z_t \quad (2)$$

Definition 1

$\{y_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{Z}}$ is (weak, wide-sense, second-order) **stationary** if $(y_{t_i})_{i=1}^k$ and $(y_{t_i-h})_{i=1}^k$ have the same mean and covariances for any $\{t_i\}_{i=1}^k$ and h .

Equivalently:

- $\mathbb{E}y_t$ is independent of t
- $\text{Cov}(\mathbf{y}_t)$ does not depend on t
- $\text{Cov}(\mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{y}_{t-h})$ only depends on h

Definition 2

Strong stationarity means $(\mathbf{y}_{t_i})_{i=1}^k$ and $(\mathbf{y}_{t_i-h})_{i=1}^k$ are equal in distribution.

Definition 3 (*Cross-covariance/correlation function*)

Suppose $\{\mathbf{y}_t, t \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ is stationary. The **cross-covariance function**

$$\Gamma_{\mathbf{y}}(h) = \text{Cov}(\mathbf{y}_t, \mathbf{y}_{t-h}) \quad (3)$$

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It is a $K \times K$ matrix, not generally symmetric since $\Gamma_y(h)^\top = \Gamma_y(-h)$

The ***cross-correlation function***

$$(R_y(h))_{i,j} = \text{Corr}(y_{i,t}, y_{j,t-h}) = \frac{\Gamma_y(h)_{ij}}{\sqrt{\Gamma_y(0)_{ii}\Gamma_y(0)_{jj}}} \quad (4)$$

As matrices, let $D = \text{diag}(\sqrt{\text{var } y_{1t}}, \sqrt{\text{var } y_{2t}}, \dots)$. Then $R_y(h) = D^{-1}\Gamma_y(h)D^{-1}$.

Question: For what ν , A_i is the VAR(p) model stationary?

Let us first look at the AR(1) case:

$$y_t = \nu + \alpha y_{t-1} + z_t$$

It turns out: stationary solution exists iff $|\alpha| < 1$.